

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CHILD CUSTODY AND SUPPORT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency  
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

**December, 2007**

# INDIANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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# INDIANA CHILD CUSTODY AND SUPPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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### Staff

Eliza Houston  
Attorney for the Committee

Mark Goodpaster  
Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

## **I. STATUTORY AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DIRECTIVES**

The Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation (IC 33-24-11-6) directing the Committee to review custody and educational expenses and other items related to the welfare of a child of a family that is no longer intact. Specifically, the Committee is to consider the following in studying the child support guidelines:

- (1) The mathematics pertaining to the child support guideline chart.
- (2) The actual costs of supporting a child.
- (3) Whether it is appropriate to calculate child support guideline amounts based primarily upon the ability of the parent to pay rather than the financial needs of the child.
- (4) Equality of child support awards for the children of the parties, regardless of birth order.
- (5) A mechanism that may be employed to modify the amount of support to be paid due to a change in financial circumstances or a change in the number of children being supported by either parent.
- (6) The age of a child to the extent that the child may require different amounts of support at different ages.
- (7) Clarification regarding under what circumstances, if any, support may be abated.
- (8) A mechanism that may be employed to ensure that the guidelines are applied flexibly.
- (9) The application of the guidelines to a split custody situation.
- (10) Whether it is appropriate to base child support guidelines upon the premise that the child should enjoy the same standard of living that the child would have enjoyed if the family remained intact.

Additionally, the Legislative Council charged the Committee with studying the topics of child support for post-secondary education and facilitation of surrogacy agreements and births, and current laws and regulations concerning surrogacy agreements and births.

## **II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM**

The Committee met three times during the 2007 interim, on October 18, October 24, and November 30. All meetings were held at the State House in Indianapolis.

At the meeting on October 18, 2007, the Committee heard testimony on a study of administrative child support processes commissioned by the Child Support Bureau, Department of Child Services. The Committee also heard testimony on: (1) the need for and purpose of parenting coordinators; (2) the need for accessible resources and information for parents going through divorces; (3) the fees for noncustodial parents in the collection of child support; and (4) presumed joint legal custody.

At the meeting on October 24, 2007, the Committee heard testimony and had discussion on recommendations by the Child Support Bureau concerning supplementing Indiana's child support program with quasi-judicial processes.

At the meeting on November 30, 2007, the Committee discussed proposed legislation concerning: (1) administrative procedures for establishing paternity and child support; and (2) presumed joint legal custody.

The Committee did not adopt a final report. Additional details of the Committee's proceedings are available in the meeting minutes for the Committee, which can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.